

The DX Bulletin

AMERICA'S OLDEST WEEKLY AMATEUR RADIO PUBLICATION

ISSUE 257 SEPTEMBER 30, 1984

PROPAGATION: Sep 30, Low Normal; Oct 1, Disturbed; Oct 2, Below Normal/Disturbed; Oct 3, Low Normal; Oct 4, High/Low Normal; Oct 5, Low Normal; Oct 6, High Normal; Oct 7-13, Low Normal; Oct 14, 15, High Normal; Oct 16, Below Normal. TNX N4XX.

Flux (80)	Flux (81)	Flux (82)	Flux (83)	Date	Flux (84)	Alpha (84)	K (84)
166	199	146	100	9/20	74	27	3
158	190	144	100	9/21	74	20	3
177	182	145	102	9/22	75	10	2
194	183	152	105	9/23	75	24	4
190	181	166	112	9/24	76	70	5
183	181	170	111	9/25	76	30	3
183	188	186	111	9/26	74	23	4

GUINEA BISSAU: UB5WAD has fired up as J5WAD and reportedly will be there one year. He was initially limited to 14.157 but now has been worked at other spots on 20 SSB, sometimes by a list, around 2000Z. Two things to keep in mind: as a Soviet assigned to an African country, Vlad is highly unlikely to be operating without some kind of official permission; whether that permission will reach Newington is another story. And as a licensed Soviet amateur, it can be assumed that he knows CW and is a trained operator.

DX Report says that Canada's DOC has reversed itself again and now shows Gerry, 5X5GK, as being VE7FXX. This may increase the chances that someday he will pry a license, in writing, out of the Ugandan authorities. For now, no license, and no DXCC credit. Gerry shows mostly on 15 SSB, 1500-1800Z.

TL8GE/STØ S. Sudan rumors going around, for an impending operation; QSLs for Michele's operation from there earlier this year DO count for DXCC, as no written permission is required from the S. Sudan.

RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION EARLY AND OFTEN!

LOW BAND NOTES: S. Florida DX group said to be aiming for serious 80/40 Meter work from BVØW next month. A few lucky US and VE worked BVØJA on 40 during last June's operation, but not many...P29JS (VK9NS) has ten months to go on P.N.G., and he's readying a 160 Meter antenna for the upcoming season...Nets are springing up on 75 Meters: the "West Gulf DX Net" will be working on 3787 at 0300Z this Fall and Winter...CEØAA has been available several evenings a week on 7174, around 0400Z, and they are on 75 Meters, 3775-3790, on Wednesdays and Fridays at 04 and 0800Z... You'd be shocked at how many US/VE West Coasters have worked BY1pk and BY4AA on 80 Meters; one local DXer on the Right Coast has his sights set on working them on 160 Meters this year...9M2CO worked in Europe Sept 25, at 2200Z, on 3795, and our New Hampshire desk reports he was audible there (2X3); this might be a certain W6-type rumored to be in Malaysia for several months...the main place VK9ZA seems to be showing is 75 Meters (see Bandpass); and we had solid copy the other morning on ZL7OY, using a 50-foot piece of wire about ten feet above the dirt...FB8WK was worked from Michigan last week, on 10.102 MHz, 0320Z, and seemed legitimate...the German Desk reports S8 signals from KH6XX on 40, at 0530Z, and they anxiously await ZL1AMO to fire up on 40 and 80 from FW8 next month...Yankee Clipper Contest Club prexy notes a new "West Coast 160 Meter Bulletin" by N7CKD (Callbook adr); it is apparently published about six times a year, and we suggest you write to him if interested...

FINALLY, please remember that there's a move afoot at FCC to allocate 1950-2000 exclusively to non-amateurs, and 1950-2000 KHz on a shared basis (see TDXB 256). Write to FCC NOW about this, if you care.

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No technical talk, just practical experience

LOW-BAND ANTENNAS

FALLING LEAVES AND FALLING SUNSPOTS make many of us think about operating on 40, 80, and 160 Meters. We will try to sort out the options for you, drawing on twenty-three years of mistakes on our part.

It can generally be said that on 7 MHz and above, the best antenna for transmitting is also the best antenna for receiving. On 80 and 160, however, this is seldom if ever the case. We will draw these distinctions when necessary.

FLAT DIPOLES: We don't like them. They have no gain, no directivity (except the occasional null off the ends), and are generally high-angle radiators unless they are very high. What about the "rotary dipoles" being offered to turn along with your HF beam(s)? Well, they are mostly "loaded" elements, thus are less efficient than a full-length aerial. People we know who swear by them put them into service on those rare occasions when, for some reason, their "big antenna" is at the wrong height for a particular path. However, if you use a 40 Meter rotary dipole on your 100-foot tower, it will work DX!

INVERTED VEEs: Our experience has been that these often work better than a flat dipole at the same height, and we suspect that it's because they fill out the pattern better than a flat dipole, i.e., no nulls.

SLOPING DIPOLES: Our favorite in the cheap-and-dirty competition. Suspended from a tower which, we assume, acts as a reflector, "slopers" are quite directive in front-to-back. On all three bands these are also good receiving aerials, as their low-angle reduces local strong signal interference. We have found that the textbook recommendation of a 45-degree angle is correct, and critical. 80-Meter slopers tried on an 80-90 foot tower have not worked properly, whether they were straight at an angle greater than 45 degrees or whether the bottom half of the dipole was stretched out parallel to the ground.

Slopers suspended from non-metallic objects do not have as much F/B as those with a metal tower behind them. We have also used systems with several slopers used, one driven and the others having inductance switched in to make them act as reflectors. We do not think they were worth the added work and expense.

FIXED WIRE BEAMS: these fall into categories: all elements driven vs parasitic arrays, and yagi vs quad configurations. All these are uni-directional, unless a nightmarish electronic configuration is used to switch them 180 degrees; wasted effort, we think. Mostly, what we've found with these antennas was that due to the small element diameters and surrounding objects, the elements don't "see" each other very well. We like this kind of aerial for a field day station, but not at a permanent site. There are simply better alternatives, at the same cost.

VERTICALS: when they're done right, they are great transmitting antennas. But laying radials is just about everybody's most labor-intensive job, and if your ground isn't right the work is for naught. Phased verticals work even better, but multiply the labor by the number of elements in the system, then add in the great expense of cable, switching, etc., and further consider that when you're done you still only have an aerial for one band.

Shunt-feeding an existing tower saves the problem of erecting a metal stick, but you must still get a ground system in, and we have never had a shunt-fed tower vertical work as well as a single metal pole vertical. One advantage of these systems is that if your CW monitor fails, you can always just watch the lights in your rotator control box blink when you transmit!

ROTARY QUADS: if you live in the North, the ice will bring them down; in the South, wait for a hurricane, tornado, or Santa Ana Winds to do it. Good luck.

ROTARY YAGIS: the best, of course. We do not know of a "shortened" 40 Meter yagi that works over more than about 200 KHz. The newcomers will be asking you how's come their tribander works over all of 20 and most of 15 and 10. Tell them it's just like the years going by faster as you get older. If you're brave, hit them with the old "bandwidth as a percentage of frequency" ploy. Most of the short 40 and 80 Meter yagis are terrific over about 50 KHz; you can "pick a mode" for top performance, or choose a frequency midway between 'phone and CW for less; a few people are very loud at 7100, but who cares?

RECEIVING: as noted, 80 and 160 require separate receiving antennas, unless you are blessed with one of the new KLM yagis for 80. The two receiving problems on these bands are atmospheric noise (QRN) and strong local signals from other hams. Both can be reduced by using a Beverage; trouble is, you need at least 300-400 feet for 80, and more for 160. We are just utterly grossed out by the so-called "receiving loops." If a guy a mile away is running a KW, you can null him pretty well with one of these; but you won't hear any DX on it.

Beverage antennas are the DXer's choice, and reams have been written about them. Jim's pet, foolproof Beverage, is 400 feet or so for 80, terminated to ground through 500 ohms (in the receive direction), fed with coax (with the shield grounded at the feed point). We use a preamp at the receiver, as the Beverage is highly inefficient. The DX will drop two S Units, while the noise drops five! Put the wire just high enough that Kareem Abdul Jabbar won't run into it.

FINALLY, remember that every dB you pick up on these bands buys you a lot more than a dB on 20, 15, and 10, with respect to the competition.

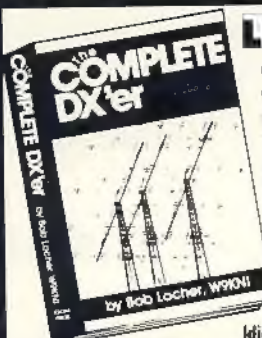
BANDPASS: Call/Frequency/UTC (plus West, Mountain, Central, East report)/Date

AP2AU 14180 03W 22	HZ1AB 14200 13E 18	UR1RXO 14024 17E 22	ZK1XG 14181 03W 21
A35SA 14320 04W 22	H44IA 3792 12M 16	RA2FA 14008 19E 15	ZL7OY 14180 04W 23
BY5RA 14180 12E 16	H44IA 7011 12E 16	UD6DWA 14030 12E 18	ZP5CVM 14043 00E 14
BY5RA 14180 12E 17	H44IA 7007 11E 18	UG6GAW 7002 03E 22	ZP5XDW 21025 22E 16
BY4AA 14180 12E 18	H44IA 7010 12C 19	UL7EA 14017 12E 18	ZS1GP 3786 04C 23
BY5RA 14191 03W 22	H44IA 7006 12M 20	UL7PEQ 14050 02E 21	Z22JE 14175 13E 15
CE2CAW 7006 02E 20	ISØNZ 7017 01E 21	UH8EWW 14042 13C 16	Z22JS 7005 04E 21
CE3EEO 3799 03C 24	ISØNMH 21018 14E 16	UL8FWL 14041 13C 17	3B8DB 7007 03C 21
CEØERY 14208 03W 21	ISØWDX 14017 21E 17	UM9RWC 14014 13E 18	3D6AL 21257 17E 17
CEØGBL 14251 03W 23	ISØWJS 14015 21E 19	RI8CA 14196 03W 22	3D6AN 21307 18E 17
CEØAA 21030 15M 16	JWØEQ 7002 00C 17	UAØFF 3644 13W 16	3D6AN 3792 04E 22
CEØAA 21295 18E 17	JW6VDA 14192 02W 22	UZØQXB 14169 01C 17	3D6AV 14159 14C 22
CEØAA 3815 08E 18	JW6VDA 14215 14W 22	UZØBWC 7007 10E 18	4JK1ANO 7004 04C 21
Weds and Fris)	J73PB 21345 22E 15	UAØFDX 3643 11E 23	4U1ITU 21025 17E 16
CEØAA 21245 20E 18	J73D 3512 10E 21	UAØCW 3643 11C 23	4K1GAG 7002 02E 21
CEØAA 14236 00Z	J73D 7012 10E 21	VK6RI 3799 10C 23	4U1ITU 14025 18E 16
Nightly, list	J73LC 3800 02E 24	VK6LW 7003 23E 18	4X4NJ 14185 19W 22
CEØAA 3795 09E 19	J88AQ 21298 20W 22	VK9ZA 3798 12M 17	5N3WDC 21022 17E 17
CEØAA 14030 13C 19	J5WAD 14170 20E 24	VK9ZA 3798 12C 20	5N8AMA 14200 23C 20
CEØAA 14033 02E 20	KC6IN 3794 12C 23	VP8ASR 21329 17E 17	5N3RTF 3789 04E 24
CEØAA 21245 21W 20	KC6IN 3793 11E 26	(Falklands)	5W1EW 14228 03W 16
CEØAA 3795 10E 21	KG4DX 3797 04C 23	VP8RAF 21032 21M 17	5X5GK 21335 18E 17
CEØAA 21030 15E 21	KG6RI 14294 04W 18	(ditto)	5X5GK 21335 18E 20
CEØAA 21250 21E 21	KG6GG 14309 02W 22	VP9KB 14275 00E 17	5Z4MX 14029 17E 16
CEØAA 7174 04E 22	KL7GKY 3786 06E 18	VP9JT 3798 02E 20	6W1NQ 21275 20E 18
CN2AQ 7013 01E 21	AH8A 14308 02W 22	VU2JXO 14014 13E 16	6W1BL 3796 22E 23
CN2AQ 3502 00E 24	KX6DS 3502 10E 18	VU2JXO 14020 01E 18	6Y5DA 21315 22C 16
C)2LA 7028 01E 14	KX6OA 14294 04E 18	VU2RMV 14028 13E 18	6Y5JH 14008 22E 20
CM8AR 7040 11E 16	KX6DS 14214 05W 23	VU2GDG 14227 16W 22	7P8CI 21334 17E 16
CO7RG 7088 11W 17	DL4OAJ/	KA2DIV/	8P6JQ 3797 02E 21
CO2HQ 3772 03C 18	LX 14012 00E 16	V2A 14024 12E 18	8R1RBF 14221 04W 22
CO2GB 3793 05E 21	LX1JP 14028 23E 17	V44KG 3794 02E 19	9J2WS 21017 16M 15
CO5GV 3785 03E 23	LX1GN 14023 21E 20	(VP2K)	9J2WS 21241 20W 22
CM2QP 3806 05E 23	KD2HE/	V85HG 14208 14C 16	9V1VY 14227 16W 16
CP5IB 7013 10E 20	OA4 14027 13E 16	YC8BR 3799 12M 16	
CT2CB 3795 06C 18	KD2HE/	YBØBNJ 14208 14C 16	
C21BD 14220 05W 23	OA4 21030 19E 16	YBØBZZ 14208 14C 16	
DJØSB/	OHØAL 14027 17E 16	YB3DC 14199 13E 18	
C6A 3796 02E 20	OHØBE 14031 13E 16	YB2BNJ 14208 13E 22	
DU3A 14153 13E 14	OHØAD 14016 12C 16	YN5ASO 7004 11E 23	
D68WB 21285 20W 22	OY7ML 7006 23E 18	YN4RC 3791 11W 17	
G6ZY/	PJ2HB 21345 22C 15	YN4RC 3798 11E 18	
EA6 14028 23E 17	PAØJLS/	YS9CAG 14226 21C 16	
EA8ABR 14040 22E 16	PJ2 14016 17E 22	YS7OB 14053 01E 19	
EA8ADP 21287 21C 16	PJ8DFS 21291 15E 15	YJ8RG 14221 04W 22	
EA8ABG 14012 22E 17	PJ7VL 14031 19E 16	YJ8RG 14220 05W 23	
EA9KD 14040 00E 17	PZ1AG 7013 23E 16	ZD7AL 21266 20W 22	
EA9IE 3796 04E 21	PZ2AC 7008 04C 20	ZF1LA 14007 22E 16	
K6EID/	PZ1DV 7003 04E 23	ZK1XG 14180 03W 16	
EA9 14193 23E 21	P29PL 7006 11E 17	ZK1CG 14290 03W 18	
EL2AL 21274 13E 15	P29JS 7006 12M 17		
FB8WK 7019 03E 16	SV1DW 14032 22E 21		
FB8WK 3505 05E 23	WØPU/		
FMØWO 7004 10E 17	SV9 7009 01E 18		
FM7CT 7010 11E 17	TA1MN 14031 21E 20		
FM4DJ 14049 12E 18	TF3SA 14004 22E 21		
FM7WD 7004 11E 19	TG9NX 3788 08E 19		
FO8HL 14180 03W 17	TG9FC 7015 02E 20		
FW8AF 14236 03E 8	TI2J 3790 04E 21		
FW8AF 14236 03W 22	TI5EWL 3790 11C 23		
GU3HFN 14012 21E 18	FØFRV/		
HBØNL 7002 02E 18	TK 14014 21E 17		
HBØNL 14013 12E 19	TK5EL 14050 12E 18		
HC5NAI 7003 02E 20	FØIRK/		
HC5NAI 7013 10E 20	TK 7002 00E 20		
HI8LC 3780 03C 18	(not Rromelin!)		
HKØBKK 7002 01E 21	TR8DR 14194 20E 23		
HKØHEU 3795 05E 22	T2ADE 14225 03W 21		
HKØBKK 7004 05E 23	T32AF 14187 02W 17		
HH2CF 14013 02E 20	T32AY 14185 02W 23		
HH5CB 3791 10E 23	T77C 14170 16W 22		

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CALENDAR

CAMBODIA XU1SS Sundays, 1200Z, 14.245, w/VS6CT;
9/23 sked unsuccessful (no prop)

CHINA Wednesdays and Saturdays, 14.155 or 14.180,
w/DU9RG; various stations

S SHETLANDS 4K1GAG active 20/40/80 CW

WILLIS VK9ZA on 75 SSB and occasionally 20 SSB

ANTIGUA KA2DIV/V2A NOW to end of Oct or so

OBLAST 049 RI8CA operation ending any day now

BURUNDI 9U5JB back on 15 SSB, mostly

TRISTAN ZD9CC sked Tuesdays, 21.290, 1900Z

LIECHTENSTEIN HBØNL Now to Oct 14

THAILAND HSØA occasionally; scheduled for CQ Phone

CROZET FB8WK/WJ leave Nov; on 10 MHz now

MALDIVES 8Q by PA3DEV Sep 27-Oct 16

TAIWAN BVØW by S. Fla group Oct 4-13; I255

ST LUCIA J6 by KC2s CS, JM, Oct 9-19; I 255

WALLIS FW8 by ZLIAM0 starts Oct 10, three weeks

ECUADOR Special HC1A Oct 10; I255

LOW BAND Meeting in Mass Oct 13; I 254, 255

DXPO 84 In Virginia, Oct 13/14; W2HGK for details

DOMINICA KC2CA/J73 Oct 14-16

S COOKS ZK1XC/XD by PA3s BKM, DHH, Oct 23-Nov 5; I 256

MELLISH Oct 25-Nov 6; details I251

Alaska KL7GPG operation Oct 18, QSL WL7K, 25th Anni-
versary of Alaska's Statehood

JAN MAYEN Rumored by OH group Oct 23-30

SAO TOME WB7RFA hoping for end of Oct; I 250

CQ WW Contest PHONE, OCT 27/28

ZONE 2 K8AQM/VE2 group Oct 27/28

MONTSERRAT VP2MW by British group Oct 27/28

B.V.I. VP2VCW by N6CW, Oct 23-31

MACAO KØCS group Oct 27/28; I 256

LIECHTENSTEIN HBØBHA/AON by Germans, oct 27/28

TAIWAN K7UGA group in NOV

DINNER New England DXCC, Nov 10; details K1ST

160 METERS DXCC endorsable Nov 1

OFFICIAL CE Ø A A SKED!

1230-1630Z, 14.010/14.037 and
21.010/21.037, CW

1800-2000Z, 14.110, SSB, for
EU and S/Central America

2000-2230Z, 14.110, Europe

2245-2359Z, 14.190 SSB, for
Canada and Caribbean

0000-0300Z, 14.236 SSB, for
USA/Japan

0400Z-0600Z, 7085 SSB, for
EU, Cent/So. America

0600-0800Z, 7085 SSB, and
3730 SSB, Japan/Cent. Am.

ABOVE SCHEDULE received from
CE3BXP of the "Zone 12 DX
Group." It confirms that the
operation lasts until the end
of October, and QSLs go to
Box 700, Santiago CHILE.

CONTRIBUTORS

K1IBU, KH6BZF, CE3BXP, K8AQM,
WL7K, WP2ABZ, N6CW, W1VV,
W4VQ, KC7WG, K1SR, K1XN,
K1RG, W4BAA, W7HRD, K43R,
KØCVD, WB8ZRL, W1WAI, KN6M,
N4NO, WD5AAM, K4BAI, K6IR,
DA2ER.

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